IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) Device for storing vehicles, the device comprising

at least one platform,

at least one guide for guiding the at least one platform over a path traverse to the at least one platform,

a lifting device for moving the at least one platform along the traverse path,

a safety device acting independently of the lifting device for securing the at least one platform against undesired movement and for preventing movement of the at least one platform,

the safety device including at least one locking unit and at least one locking element for preventing any unintentional movement of the at least one platform,

~~the locking unit including~~ two deflection rollers arranged at the locking unit, and

an opening element formed of a cable or chain guided around the two deflection rollers,

the locking unit being rotatably mounted on the at least one platform about a rotational axis and being freely rotatable with a center of gravity of the locking unit being located off-center from the rotational axis so that the locking unit tends to move towards a continuous active connection with the locking element by the force of gravity as long as there is an absence of power acting against gravity applied to the locking unit.

2. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 1, wherein the safety device secures the platform against undesired downward movement.

3. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 1, wherein the safety device is arranged along the traverse path of the at least one platform against the at least one guide to interrupt movement of the at least one platform.

4. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 1, wherein the locking element is arranged on at least one of the guides.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 1, wherein the locking element includes a gear rack.

7. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 6, wherein a notch is provided as the locking unit.

8. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 7, wherein a side of the notch facing the locking element has at least one tooth designed to positively engage and interlock into each indentation of the gear rack along the traverse path of the at least one platform.

9. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 1, wherein the locking unit is held in a position by a power element embracing the opening element acting against an effective direction of the power element, and which is activated only when the at least one platform is moved along the guides.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 1, wherein the lifting device cooperates with the opening element in such a way that actuating of the opening element embraced by the locking unit is blocked.

12. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 1, wherein the locking unit is in the continuous active connection with the locking element and has the opening element for opening the active connection.

13. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 9, wherein power which is effective against the power element is brought by the cable into the locking unit.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 12, wherein the opening element acts through the cable on the locking unit and to remove the active connection with the locking element.

16. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 1, wherein the two deflection rollers guide the cable in a shape of an "S".

17. (Currently Amended) Device for storing vehicles, the device comprising

at least one platform, the at least one platform being guided on guides and the at least one platform being traversable over a path traverse to the at least one platform,

means for moving the at least one platform along the traverse path and the at least one platform being secured against undesired movement by safety means for preventing movement of the at least one platform, the safety means including at least one locking unit and at least one locking element,

the locking unit being rotatable and supported in such a way that a center of gravity of the locking unit is located off-center so that the locking unit is in continuous active connection with the locking element as long as there is no power acting against gravity applied to the locking unit; , and

a cable being attached to an upper end of at least one of the guides and to a lower end of at least one guide.

18. (Currently Amended) Device for storing vehicles, the device comprising

at least one platform, the at least one platform being guided on guides and the at least one platform being traversable over a path traverse to the at least one platform,

means for moving the at least one platform along the traverse path and the at least one platform being secured against undesired movement by safety means for preventing movement of the at least one platform, the safety means including at least one locking unit and at least one locking element,

the locking unit being rotatable and supported in such a way that a center of gravity of the locking unit is located off-center so that the locking unit is in continuous active connection with the locking element as long as there is no power acting against gravity applied to the locking unit; , and

the locking unit being provided on the at least one platform and the locking element including a gear rack provided on a frame, at least two deflection rollers provided on the locking unit over which a cable being guided which is attached to an upper end of the frame and connected with an opening element arranged on the floor which then effects a movement of the cable when the opening element is actuated, bringing a force acting against gravity to the locking unit which turns the locking unit in such a way to disengage the locking unit from the locking element.

19. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 1, wherein the cable runs along the traverse path of the at least one platform over the deflection rollers.

20. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 9, wherein an actuating element is provided for actuating the opening element arranged in such a way that an operator actuates the actuating element.

21. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 20, wherein the locking unit releases the at least one platform only when the actuating element is actuated.

22. (Currently Amended) Device ~~according to claim 15, wherein~~ for storing vehicles, the device comprising

at least one platform,

at least one guide for guiding the at least one platform over a path traverse to the at least one platform,

a lifting device for moving the at least one platform along the traverse path,

a safety device acting independently of the lifting device for securing the at least one platform against undesired movement and for preventing movement of the at least one platform,

the safety device including at least one locking unit and at least one locking element for preventing any unintentional movement of the at least one platform,

the locking unit including two deflection rollers, and

an opening element formed of a cable or chain guided around the two deflection rollers,

the locking unit being rotatably mounted on the at least one platform about a rotational axis and being freely rotatable with a center of gravity of the locking unit being located off-center from the rotational axis so that the locking unit tends to move towards a continuous active connection with the locking element by the force of gravity as long as there is an absence of power acting against gravity applied to the locking unit,

the locking unit being in the continuous active connection with the locking element and having the opening element for opening the active connection,

the opening element acting through the cable on the locking unit and to remove the active connection with the locking element,

the cable ~~is~~ being attached to a building.

23.- 24. (Cancelled)

25. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 1, wherein the locking unit includes a centrifugal brake which is actuated automatically by an adjustable speed deviating from a normal traverse speed of the at least one platform.

26. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 1, wherein the safety device is brought into active connection by magnetic forces.

27. (Previously Presented) Device for storing vehicles, the device comprising

at least one platform,

at least one guide for guiding the at least one platform over a path traverse to the at least one platform,

a lifting device for moving the at least one platform along the traverse path,

a safety device for securing the at least one platform against undesired movement and for preventing movement of the at least one platform,

the safety device including at least one locking unit and at least one locking element for preventing any unintentional movement of the at least one platform,

the locking unit being rotatably mounted about a rotational axis and being freely rotatable with a center of gravity of the locking unit being located off-center from the rotational axis so that the locking unit tends to move towards a continuous active connection with the locking element by the force of gravity as long as there is an absence of power acting against gravity applied to the locking unit, and

the locking unit being in the continuous active connection with the locking element having an opening element for opening the active connection, the opening element acting through a cable on the locking unit and for removing the active connection with the locking element, the cable being attached to a building.